

A co-efficient of cubic contents was calculated for each of these classes. In this way it was hoped that a very fairly accurate estimate of the material exported would be obtained. The contractors, however, opposed a most obstinate resistance to the innovation, which is most significant of the inaccuracy of the records of past years, and with a short-handed establishment further crippled by the withdrawal of two extra Assistant Conservators besides subordinates on Famine grass operations, the arrangement could not be efficiently enforced. One good result of the attempt, however, has been that desirable revisions in the classification have been indicated, and in the current year contractors have been made to understand at the time of purchasing the coupes that the arrangement is to be carried out. As the material is their own property and the record of the quantity has no effect on the sale price which is fixed beforehand by public tender, it is difficult to understand why the contractors should object to the arrangement. That they do so however most emphatically is shown by the fact that on the first date named not a single tender was received and a second call had to be made before any sales could be effected. The reason urged is, that the dépôt officers are not sufficiently educated to be entrusted with measuring the material, but this has been met by so fixing the classes that a piece of string with 3 knots in it and a 10-foot bamboo are all that will be required for the efficient classification of the material. The similar record of material reserved has also not been a success, but as the arrangements were already fairly complete, though unnecessarily cumbersome, this failure has not been so marked.

31. The improved marking of reserves alluded to in paragraph 95 last year could not be introduced generally. Instead of an increased establishment there was only one crippled, as already stated, and for the most part the old system of reserve marking had to be resorted to. The Divisional Forest Officers, North and Central Tháná, however, marked personally a few coupes, stamping each reserve with a Government timber mark; but the Divisional Forest Officer, South Tháná, who for over two months was in direct charge of the grass operations, could of course not undertake anything of the sort. The present working season has now commenced and the extra establishment asked for has not been sanctioned, so that even next year's report will not, I fear, be able to record that this useful measure has been universally introduced, but it is earnestly hoped that this will be the end of the delay in its introduction.

32. The Godhra Working Plan, which comes into operation for the first time this season, will profit by the experience thus gained and its control record should be accurate from the very commencement.

II.—WORKING OF THE YEAR.

(a).—COMMUNICATION AND BUILDINGS.

33. The expenditure under this head incurred departmentally was Rs. 6,348-14-3 during the year. The details of the works for which this amount was spent are given in Form No. 51.

34. The following is the list of works carried out during the year by the agency of the Public Works Department:—

No.	Name of Work.	Amount expended.
		Rs. a. p.
ORIGINAL WORKS.		
<i>North Tháná.</i>		
1	Putting up a window in the Wángáoñ Depôt House ...	15 1 2
<i>Central Tháná.</i>		
2	Providing plank ceiling to the Record and Office-room of the Range Forest Officer's residence at Khardi	132 15 11
3	Additions and alterations to the Forest Depôt House at Kására ...	216 1 6

Number.	Name of Work.	Amount expended.
		Rs. a. p.
ORIGINAL WORKS— <i>continued.</i>		
<i>South Tháná.</i>		
4	Providing plank ceiling to Range Forest Office in the Mámlatdár's Kacheri at Sháhpur	145 10 3
5	Constructing a room for confiscated property for the Range Forest Officer in the compound of the Mámlatdar's Kacheri at Tháná	540 3 1
6	Additions and alterations to the Range Forest Officer's Office at Murbád	210 9 7
	Total	1,260 9 6
REPAIRS.		
<i>North Tháná.</i>		
1	Repairs to the Forest Office at Kelva-Máhim	30 5 0
2	Repairs to the Forest Depôt House at Manor	17 14 6
3	Do. do. at Sáwtá-bandar	17 13 4
4	Do. do. at Pálghar	17 7 10
5	Do. do. at Sanján	13 9 0
6	Do. do. at Wángaon	17 13 7
7	Do. do. at Gholvad	17 14 0
<i>Central Tháná.</i>		
8	Repairs to the Forest Office at Khardi	41 8 10
9	Do. do. at Vádá	22 15 9
10	Repairs to the Forest Depôt House at Kasárá	17 15 10
11	Repairs to the Office at Bassein	26 0 3
<i>South Tháná.</i>		
12	Repairs to the Forest Office at Tháná	19 13 6
13	Do. do. at Bhiwndy	22 15 6
14	Repairs to the Forest Depôt House at Átgaon	17 10 6
15	Do. do. at Vássind	17 15 11
16	Repairs to the Forest and Sub-Registrar's Office at Kalyán	20 4 8
17	Do. do. at Murbád	24 7 5
18	Repairs to the Forest Depôt House at Wángni	18 4 11
<i>Panch Maháls.</i>		
1	Repairs to the Forest Office at Dohad	13 15 0
	Total	396 13 4
	Grand Total	1,657 6 10

(b).—PROTECTION OF FORESTS FROM INJURY.

(1).—General Protection and Breaches of Forest Law.(a).—*General Protection.*

35. There has been no change in the scale of Protective Establishment.

Proposals for increase of protective establishment are now before Government.

(b).—*Breaches of Forest Law.*

36. Cases tried by Magistrates as compared with the year 1895-96 were as follows:—